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through the California Highway Patrol, Blackwood,
Kee, and Rubalcava
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10 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
12 EASTERN-RIVERSIDE DIVISION
13

14 **L.C.,**

15 Plaintiffs,

16 **v.**

17 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA, et al.,**

18 Defendants.
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20
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No. 5:22-cv-00949 KK-SHKx

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Date: May 15, 2025
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Courtroom: 3 (3rd Floor)
Judge: Honorable Kenly Kiya Kato
Trial Date: June 2, 2025
Action Filed: June 7, 2022

22 The parties submit the following joint statement of the case for the trial in this
23 matter:

24 This civil case arises out of the fatal shooting of decedent Hector Puga by
25 California Highway Patrol Officers Michael Blackwood, Isaiah Kee, and Bernardo
26 Rubalcava and other law enforcement officers on February 17, 2021, near the
27 intersection of Peach and Catalpa Streets in Hesperia. The Plaintiffs are Mr. Puga's
28

1 three minor children. The Defendants are Officers Blackwood, Kee, and Rubalcava
2 and the State of California.

3 Plaintiffs claim that the CHP Officers used excessive and unreasonable force
4 against Mr. Puga. Plaintiffs further claim that the officers were negligent in their
5 conduct and use of force against Mr. Puga. Plaintiffs seek money damages as
6 permitted by law.

7 Defendants assert that their actions were reasonable under the totality of the
8 circumstances because Mr. Puga presented an imminent threat of death or serious
9 bodily injury to the officers and others.

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11 Dated: May 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

12 ROB BONTA
13 Attorney General of California
14 NORMAN D. MORRISON
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

15 */s/ Diana Esquivel**

16 DIANA ESQUIVEL
17 Deputy Attorney General
18 *Attorneys for Defendants State,*
Blackwood, Kee, and Rubalcava

19 Dated: May 8, 2025

LAW OFFICES OF DALE K.
GALIPO

20
21 */s/ Hang D. Le*

22 DALE K. GALIPO
23 HANG D. LE
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

24 *The filer, Hang D. Le, hereby attests that all other signatories listed, and on whose
25 behalf the filing is submitted, concur with the filing's content and have authorized
26 the filing.